U.S. Embassy Brazzaville, Congo

Security Message for U.S. citizens: Gunfire in Brazzaville

December 16, 2013

This is an update on the security situation in Brazzaville.

The Embassy has had no further confirmed reports of gunfire since 3pm today. Embassy employees are returning home, still advised to avoid the downtown area in general and the affected area around the Maison D'arret (prison) in particular, and to limit all non-essential movements overnight. All U.S. citizens are urged to do the same.

We anticipate the Embassy will open at 10:00am December 17.

The Embassy will send further Notices as events unfold and we have further information.

All U.S. citizens in the Republic of Congo are urged to register online at the <u>Smart Traveler Enrollment Program</u> (STEP). Registering gives U.S. citizens access to updated information on travel and security within the Congo and makes it easier for the Embassy to contact citizens in case of emergency.

You can stay in touch and get Embassy updates by checking the website of the <u>U.S. Embassy in The Republic of the Congo</u>. You can also get global updates at the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Consular Affairs website where you can find the current <u>Worldwide Caution</u>, <u>Travel Warnings</u>, <u>Travel Alerts</u>, and <u>Country Specific Information</u>. Follow us on <u>Twitter</u> and the ACS Nairobi page on <u>Facebook</u> as well, or you can download our free Smart Traveler App, available through <u>iTunes</u> and the <u>Google Play</u> store, to have travel information at your fingertips. If you don't have internet access, current information on safety and security can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada, or, for callers from other countries, a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

The U.S. Embassy is located on Boulevard Denis Sassou Nguesso across from the Blanche Gomez Maternity Hospital. The Consular Section is open Monday-Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and on Fridays from 8:00 a.m.to 12:00 p.m. The Consular section can be reached via e-mail at BrazzavilleACS@state.gov, and our daytime telephone number is (+242) 06 612-2046. For after-hours emergencies, call (+242) 05 526-0673.